

“SACRED LEGACY: EDWARD S. CURTIS AND THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN”

This is a unique photographic exhibition created expressly for the United States Department of State. The principal purpose of each sixty-print exhibition is to celebrate our Native peoples and their history and culture. The exhibition will illustrate the broad and extraordinary diversity among the North American tribes and pay homage to the famed photographer/ethnographer Edward S. Curtis. The exhibition will also be designed to attract and create a positive dialogue among diverse populations within Latin America. These goals will be achieved by creating two identical exhibitions of Curtis' photographs that will travel broadly throughout Latin America. Each exhibition will contain sixty museum-quality fine art photographic prints, didactic panels, ephemera reproductions, and a film by Anne Makepeace that focuses on Curtis' work and its relationship to contemporary Native Americans. All didactic panels, ephemera reproductions and virtually all prints in the exhibitions will be created specifically for these exhibitions. Most prints will be re-creations of extremely rare processes originally employed by Curtis for his most prized (and expensive) prints. Because of the factors enumerated below, this exhibition should be a radical improvement upon all previous exhibitions of non-vintage Curtis photographs.

All work included in these exhibitions will be drawn from the archive of the personal collection of Christopher Cardozo. This is the largest and most broad-ranging Curtis collection in the world. Mr. Cardozo is widely recognized as the world's leading authority on Edward Curtis and his photography. He has also authored eight books and lectured internationally on Curtis. From his archive of over 4,000 vintage Curtis prints, Mr. Cardozo will select sixty of Curtis' most compelling and evocative images. Each image will be printed in a size and medium intended to most fully enhance the impact of object. The images will be representative of the diverse cultural geographic regions in which Curtis photographed and will illustrate Curtis' artistry in portrait, landscape, still life and ceremonial photography.

The prints will be highly faithful to the look, feel, dimensions, etc. of Curtis' original, vintage prints. Wherever possible Mr. Cardozo's personal archive of original Curtis negatives will be used as the source for creating the exhibition prints. Where the negatives are not available, the highest quality vintage prints from Cardozo's collection will be the source for generating the new prints. In many cases these vintage prints are unique. While much of Curtis' work has entered the public domain, the actual prints in the exhibition will be copyrighted by Mr. Cardozo's company, Curtis Centennial Project, Inc. Mr. Cardozo warrants that his company is the lawful copyright holder and that the Department of State is authorized to exhibit these copyrighted photographs during the two-year duration of the exhibitions. The Department of State will also be granted free, non-commercial licensing rights to twenty images to be used during the exhibition tour for educational and promotional purposes. Digital files of these images will be provided as required throughout the tour. Any licensing rights issues for the Anne Makepeace film will be clarified as soon as possible.

Mr. Cardozo will endeavor to create the most beautiful prints possible for this exhibition. A wide variety of print media will be explored and a minimum of five different fine art photographic print media will be employed for each exhibition. One of the goals of the tour is to attract the most sophisticated members of society in each country. Therefore, it will be critical to create exhibitions of unsurpassed beauty and technical mastery. Toward that end, all prints will be made by master printer Peter Bernardy of Curtis Centennial Project, Inc. Mr. Bernardy has been a professional printer twelve years and has worked with Mr. Cardozo for seven years. Under Mr. Cardozo's direct supervision, Mr. Bernardy will go through a complex and time-consuming mastering process for each print. Cardozo will also draw upon longstanding relationships in the museum-level framing industry to create the final framing presentation for all the photographs. Each frame will be a museum-quality hardwood moulding with archival matting and will be specifically selected to complement the size and tonality of each individual print. Archival matting will be used throughout.

Two exhibitions from Cardozo's personal Curtis collection have been traveling widely in Europe over the past five years. Both have been extremely well received (the inaugural exhibition in Paris broke twenty year attendance records at the host museum and generated over 100 newspaper and magazine articles as well as television coverage.) Todd Brandow has managed all logistical and non-U.S. administrative aspects of these exhibitions since 2000. He has also actively participated in many creative, promotional and educational aspects of the exhibitions. Cardozo has drawn on his thirty-two years and tens of thousands of hours of experience with Curtis' work to create these popular and critically acclaimed exhibitions. Cardozo and Brandow will both bring this wealth of knowledge and experience to bear to create these unique, groundbreaking exhibitions for the Department of State. They will also make themselves available to assist the Department of State in developing any desired exhibition enhancements and/or promotional or public relations efforts.

Christopher Cardozo

28 April, 2005